MONTEREY NEWS

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The Town Meeting

by Maggie Leonard

One hundred and twenty-four voters gathered at the Monterey Firehouse for the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday May 7. Moderator Mark Makuc gaveled the proceedings to order and began on a solemn note with a moment of silence in honor of Army Major David Brodeur, a Massachusetts soldier killed in Afganistan. Makuc also took the opportunity to remember several longtime Monterey residents who passed away this year: William Perry, Leroy Thorpe, Bob Gauthier, Len Simon, and Joe Lanoue. Then Makuc led citizens to tackle the ambitious agenda outlined on the Warrant with thrity-eight articles needing attention.

The longest, Article 4, listed 139 separate financial line items and contained the nuts and bolts of the Town's financial needs. This is where salaries are listed, the Police Department, the Highway Department, and the Fire Department funded, and the financial requests from all the town's boards and officers addressed. As Makuc read through the 139 line items, a "hold" was placed on any that were questioned; the items with holds were then gone through one by one for discussion.

The first hold was called for the Town Reserve Fund. Susan Cooper wanted

(cont. p. 2)

The Town

by Will Marsh & Sue Protheroe

Dog Park Dog Days

Robert Lazzarini of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) met with the Select Board on May 2 to discuss concerns that have arisen between the ZBA and the Select Board over the proposed dog park at the Wilson-McLaughlin House (WMH) property. They discussed the previous ZBA hearings on the issue and which boards they felt had which powers to restrict uses.

First the background: Edith Wilson bequeathed the WMH property to the Town

Batter Up! The Cal Ripken League rookie baseball team covering Otis, Monterey, and surrounding south Berkshire County towns has started its 2011 season. This year's 5–7-year-olds rookie team plays weekly games at beautiful Greene Park in downtown Monterey. (Photo: Steve Graves)

(Town Meeting, cont. from p. 1)
to know the purpose of the fund. Steve Pullen, Town Accountant, explained that the Town has a Reserve Fund for unforeseen expenses and the Select Board has the authority to use the funds as needed. Pullen said that the Town tries to have $30,000 in Reserve each year and the $15,000 appropriation would accomplish that for this year

Stan Ross called a hold on the salaries for the Inter-Departmental Secretary, the Police Chief and Officers, and the Highway Department employees. Ross, a member of the Finance Committee, told voters that his efforts in this regard were as a private citizen. He was concerned that salaries for the "full-time, non-supervisory employees" were the same as last year while the cost of living has risen due to an increase in fuel and food costs. Ross suggested an amendment to the line items that would provide a 2 percent increase to those salaries. He was supported in his efforts by fellow Finance Committee member Dan Moriarty, who said, "It's not fair to take a small group of people like this and not adequately compensate them. These people rely on us for their salaries."

Longtime Monterey resident Dean Amidon disagreed, stating, "We are on a fixed income and we did not get an increase to offset cost of living increases." Roger Tryon said, "We are all in this recession together and times are tough for everyone; I vote no on this one." Karen Shreefter added, "In a perfect world I would give them $100,000! However I am self-employed, I pay all my own health insurance, and my costs continue to go up. This is just not a good time for this." In the end the salaries and compensation as listed on the Warrant passed as written with no increase.

A "hold" was called to ask about the "big jump" in the line item for Fire Department Compensation, an increase of $16,500. The new Fire Chief, Sean Tryon, stated that over the past year the Fire Department has spent $76,000 for firefighter compensation. The prior year $60,000 was appropriated for the Fire Department and the increase reflects the actual costs of the Department. Stan Ross, this time speaking as a member of the Finance Committee, explained that the Finance Committee reviewed all the information presented by the Fire Department and that there was an increase in emergency medical calls; he added that in the past Fire Department members received a real estate tax abatement but, since some of the members were not property owners, that method had been abandoned in favor of actual compensation.

The last line item in Article 4 that generated questions was Veteran's Benefits, which went from $1.00 in 2011 to $14,000 in 2012. Town Accountant Steve Pullen explained that two indigent veterans living in Monterey had both died last year, and the State mandates paying for their funerals. Pullen said, "We have to appropriate the money to pay the bills and the State will reimburse us for 75 percent of the costs." Article 4, the budget line items, was then passed with no changes.

Three items concerned the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD): Monterey's share ($1,083,252, an increase of $103,771) of the 2012 operating budget; a $3 million debt authorization to invest in repairs to the schools and for purchasing capital equipment; and a proposed change in the method for closing schools in the district. The SBRSD operating budget generated no discussion, and was approved. However the budget was defeated in Sheffield and New Marlborough (which voted against a Proposition 2½ override), and four of the five towns in the district must approve the budget for ratification. At the May 16th Select Board meeting Jon Sylbert reported that the SBRSD School Committee resubmitted the same budget. Since Monterey has already approved it there is no need for another Special Town Meeting to vote on it. The fate of the budget awaits the

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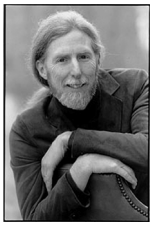

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outcomes of Special Town Meetings in New Marlborough and Sheffield.

The debt authorization request, Article 6, was a curiously worded article that asked voters to "disapprove the debt authorization of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District." The School Committee wants to authorize the district to borrow up to $3,000,000 for capital repairs to buildings and technology upgrades. Select Board Chair Jon Sylbert explained to voters that to approve the article would mean a no-vote for the borrowing, and that if Monterey wanted to approve the borrowing then the article should fail. Muriel Lazzarini asked what percent of the money would be spent on technology improvements. Sylbert responded that the School Committee wanted to replace 400 computers at $600 each. Mary Ellen Brown, a Monterey resident and former Business Administrator for the SBRSD, said, "The building in Sheffield is aging, the smoke detector system is deteriorating; the buildings need maintenance and capital improvements to keep them viable." The measure to disapprove the debt authorization failed, meaning that Monterey voters endorsed the capital improvement bond for the SBRSD.

The other school-related item, an article that would change the way district schools could be shut down or discontinued in the district, was tabled because Egremont had already voted against it (even though they had proposed it) and to go into effect it would have to be approved by all five district towns.

Article 7 asked if Monterey would approve borrowing $500,000 to improve the drainage and pave Route 23, contingent on the approval of a $500,000 STRAP grant (Small Town Road Assistance Program) for Monterey from the Commonwealth. The Town Accountant said the amount would "be reimbursed by the Commonwealth 100 percent," and the article passed.

Douglas Neu

Part of the group that gathered in the Monterey Library's Knox Room on May 14 to discuss future plans for the library, led by Mary King of the Mass. Library System.

Big-ticket items tend to attract the attention of voters and the Warrant had plenty of those. There was a request from the Highway Department for $38,000 to cover the fueling station at the Town Shed as mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Clean Water Act. Larry Klein asked why this had not been done when the construction of the Salt Shed was done a short time ago. Jacob Krans asked about the cost, which he described as "egregious." Director of Operations Maynard Forbes replied that the EPA mandate requires that the covering for the fuel tanks extend over the vehicle being fueled and that a concrete apron be installed underneath the fueling station to protect ground water and other resources in the event of a spill. The article was unanimously passed.

Article 9 was a request from the Police Department for the Town to raise and appropriate $28,855 for a 2011 Police Department cruiser. Kathy Wasiuk asked which vehicle was to be replaced, and Chief Backhaus replied it was the Ford, which is three years old and has 70,000 miles on it. Carol Ingher suggested amending the article to specify that the vehicle should be all-wheel drive. Chief Backhaus responded that they already have a four-wheel drive vehicle and the added expense would be unnecessary. There was no second to the amendment and the article was passed.

The Monterey Fire Company weighed-in with several funding requests for new equipment: $30,000 for new radios and related equipment as mandated by the FCC; $5,800 for a "Parrot's Beak," which, for lack of a better description, looks like

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a giant can opener of sorts; $3,500 for new brakes for one of the fire trucks; $7,800 for an Extractor, a kind of fire-fighting gear the Department needs. Regarding the radio communication equipment, Larry Klein asked if anyone had looked into obtaining Homeland Security funds for the purchase, as he has heard that such monies were available. Fire Chief Sean Tyron said that he was not aware of any such program adding, "If we don't replace our current system it won't work." All the funding requests were approved.

There was a combined request from the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Planning Board, and the Select Board for $11,000 to hire a consultant for a total overhaul and reorganization of the Monterey Zoning Bylaws. The exact wording of the article was "to revise the town's bylaws." Barbara Swann suggested an amendment to remove the word "revise" and replace it with "recommend revisions to" and to insert the word "zoning" so that the article would read "to hire a consultant to recommend revisions to the Towns' Zoning Bylaws." Robert Lazzarini, a Zoning Board of Appeals member who is spearheading the revision effort, explained that Monterey's Zoning Bylaws are in dire need of repair and that the consultant, Mark Brobrowski, is an expert in municipal law and land use and has worked with most of the towns in the Commonwealth to revise and re-organize their bylaws. The Monterey project would reorganize the zoning bylaws, including four public meetings, and would produce a primary draft, a first draft, and a final draft. The article passed with Swann's proposed amendments in the wording.

A request for $10,000 for a redesign of the Town Transfer Station was approved after Director of Operations Maynard Forbes explained, "It's an EPA requirement, and the fines for violation are $32,000 per day." A request from the Lake Buel Watershed Committee for $5,000 to maintain the outlet and the spillway currently was approved after Dan Moriarty of the Lake Buel Watershed Committee explained that the outlet and spillway had vastly improved the flooding problems on Lake Buel.

Monica Webb introduced an article asking voters to approve the formation of a Municipal Lighting Plant as a mechanism to fund and install a high-speed fiber optic network to serve the "last mile" for residents and businesses in small towns who lack adequate telecommunications services. Webb explained that the vote to approve would enable Monterey to join the cooperative of regional towns, Wired West, that is spearheading the broadband effort. Kathy Wasiuk took the floor to thank Monica for all her hard work and the long hours that she has dedicated to getting this technology for Monterey and other small towns. There was applause in agreement. The vote by law required a ballot, and the Moderator called for a brief recess while the votes were collected and counted. The article passed by a large margin. The following article, asking the Town for $1,000 to become a founding member of Wired West Cooperative, passed unanimously.

According to Town Clerk Linda Thorpe, Article 32, to amend Monterey's telecommunications bylaw generated almost an hour of discussion. The controversial bylaw amendment proposed to change the Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District from the summit of Mount Wilcox to include the entire town of Monterey. Planning Board Chair Maggie Leonard (full disclosure: this reporter) took the floor to deliver the Planning Board report on the proposed bylaw amendments. Leonard began by stating that the context for the bylaw amendments is a federal mandate in the form of the 1996 Telecommunications Act that was enacted "to promote a pro-competitive, deregulatory environment for telecommunications providers." Leonard stated unequivocally, "Whether this bylaw is passed or not there will definitely be cell towers in Monterey because two locations are currently under contract for lease by carriers." The 1998 telecommunications bylaw outlined an overlay district on Mount Wilcox, which currently is not viable due to changes in technology of wireless telecommunications; when Mt. Wilcox was originally chosen in 1998, cellular phone technology

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was analog and that site worked for that technology. Now cell phones operate with digital technology, which requires greater proximity to antennas.

Jon Sylbert took off his Select Board Chair hat and took the floor as a private citizen to make a case for a site-specific approach to cell towers as opposed to the town-wide approach the Planning Board has taken, appealing to voters "Let's go thoughtfully and figure this out. This is not really about proliferation, and we know we have lots of restrictions in the bylaw, but these can be appealed by companies that have millions of dollars." Planning Board member Larry Klein stated, "The carriers make the decisions where these towers will go and it is based on where the signal best propagates. We have a responsibility to provide the citizens of Monterey with this service as it relates to the health and safety of the residents here." Fred Chapman stated, "This is not a discussion about if you want cell service, this is a discussion about where to put them [the towers]."

Planning Board member Stephen Enoch rose to encourage voters to approve the proposed bylaw amendments stating, "The Planning Board debated this issue for a long time. We chose the town-wide option because we believe it provides the greatest chance at covering the whole town. The wireless overlay district still includes Mount Wilcox [the old overlay district] so if it's the best site then it's still available." Micky Jervas, a proponent of the bylaw amendments, commended the Planning Board, stating she read the bylaw amendments and that it "covered all my questions." Jervas believes that the town-wide option provides for the "safety and well-being" of residents. Laura Catullo took the floor, stating "I agree with Jon Sylbert. I thank the Planning Board for beginning this process, but there is still a lot of work to be done with this bylaw. We had a telecommunications expert review the bylaw, and he agreed that a lot more could be done." Monica Webb added, "It's not just cell towers but other service providers can put up towers too." Joe Baker said, "Cell service is inevitable, but we need to maintain control. I'm not buying into the fear factor of lawsuits. The 1996 Telecommunications Act prohibits considering human health issues. Why? Either they cannot prove that there are not health issues or, more nefarious, they know that there are health issues. We need to choose the sites and the heights."

Kathy Wasiuk said that she was a little confused, stating, "I hear that the Town needs to do something now, and I am in favor of the site-specific option. I think we should pass this and keep on improving the bylaw. I think the town needs as much control as possible." To which Stephen Enoch responded, "The Special Permit process guarantees that every resident has a voice." Enoch turned to Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard for confirmation. Pollard stated, "The 1996 Telecommunications Act is a powerful piece of legislation that guarantees that the carriers will have access to the town. The Special Permit process provides the control that you will have around tower siting." Dennis Downing asked about the setbacks, stating, "We need the bylaw to protect residential uses." Nancy Marcus, a member of the Concerned Citizens Committee, presented an amendment to the proposed bylaw that would institute a "1500-foot setback from residences, and if the company could prove that their needs could not be met at that setback, then not less than 600 feet from residences." There was more discussion and the amendment ultimately failed. In the final vote the Planning Board's proposed amendments to the telecommunications bylaw passed with 68 in favor and 11 opposed.

Following the controversial and extensive discussion of the telecommunications bylaw it was a race to the finish, with a few remaining housekeeping and bookkeeping articles that passed quickly. Moderator Mark Makuc adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm, having completed the 38 articles in five hours.

— additional reporting by Will Marsh

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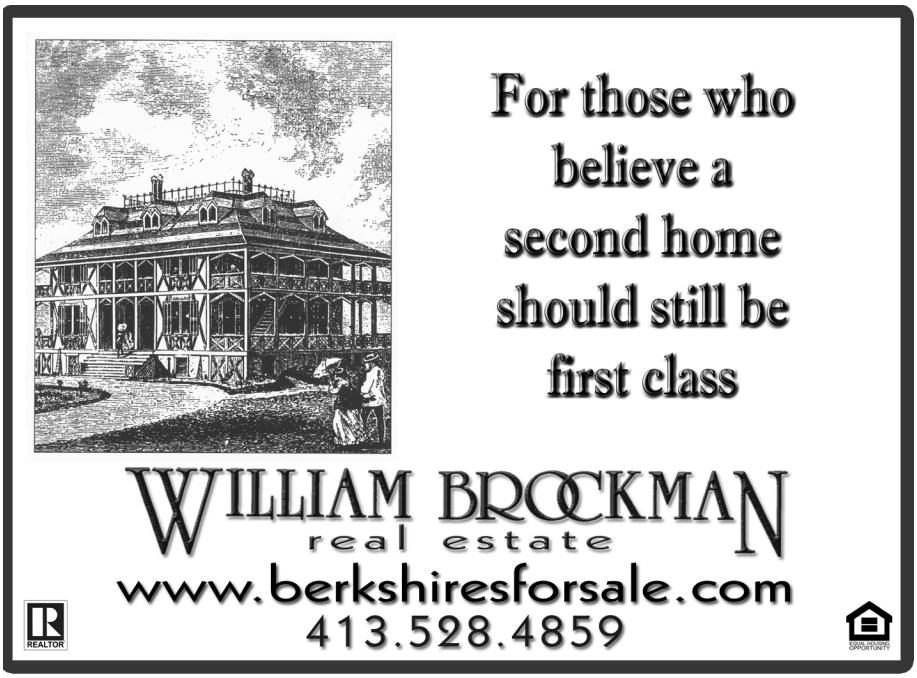
(Town, cont. from p. 1)
in 1995 for "municipal recreational uses"; a town committee, after many meetings and much work, recommended that the best use would be as a community center. Accordingly, in 2009 the Select Board, acting for the Town, requested the ZBA to permit a change of use for the property from residential use to "municipal or public service building use"; this would allow municipal uses by right that would be regulated and approved by the Select Board. The ZBA granted the special permit in October 2009, but, wanting to make sure the integrity of the property and the rights of abutters would be protected from inappropriate municipal uses such as salt sheds or truck parking, they attached conditions limiting municipal uses to "solely those necessary for the establishment and maintenance of a community center and garden." The permit further stated, "No other municipal use is approved," and restricted the municipal uses to "that portion of the parcel that lies within 600 feet of its northern-most corner at the intersection of Main Rd. and New Marlboro Rd." The permit specified that the rest of the land was "to be used for municipal recreational purposes as indicated in Edith Wilson's will."

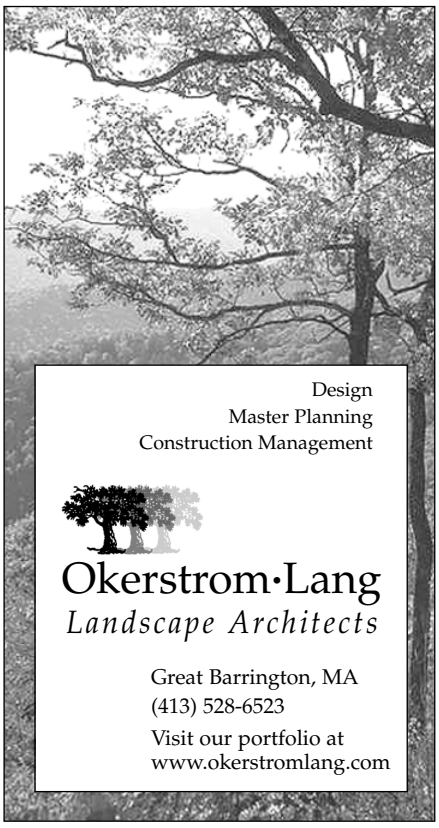
These restrictions became an issue when the 2010 Town Meeting approved $10,500 to construct a dog park on the WMH property. Was a dog park allowed under the community center use or was it prohibited by the restrictions? To clear that up, the Select Board, acting on advice of Town Counsel and the Building Commissioner (who enforces zoning bylaws), asked the ZBA to grant a special permit so that a dog park would be allowed under the "municipal or public service building use." However, at the January 19, 2011, hearing on the issue (attended by many abutters and proponents of the dog park), the ZBA voted 3 to 1 to take no action since they saw the dog park as a matter of right not falling under their jurisdiction. (See Robert Lazzarini's article in April *Monterey News*.)

This decision was not acceptable to the Select Board or Town Counsel, and they tried again, this time asking the ZBA to amend the 2009 permit, requesting specifically that a dog park be added to the permitted uses or/and the "no other municipal use" restriction be removed. On March 22, 2011, the ZBA denied the request, deciding they could not amend the permit to allow a dog park since there was no developed plan about how the park would be administered, operated, maintained, or regulated; and they could not remove the "no other use" restriction since that would leave the WMH property vulnerable to inappropriate municipal uses in the future.

At his May 2nd meeting with the Select Board, Lazzarini said that any problems with the current restrictions on the WMH property should be fixed in the least complicated way and that the ZBA and Select Board should be talking more. The Select Board believes municipal uses are allowed by right for the WMH property (not including buildings), subject to Select Board regulation and approval. They feel the original permit was only for a change of use from residential use to municipal use, and the ZBA should not have issued conditions that limited the municipal uses. Select Board Chair Jon Sylbert stated that the Select Board doesn't feel the ZBA has the right to restrict any uses. Lazzarini said that the ZBA had a responsibility in granting the original permit to protect the neighborhood.

The issue is yet further complicated, as reported in the May *News*, by the fact that in April Charles Ferris, a proponent of the dog park, filed a complaint with Berkshire Superior Court requesting that the ZBA's March 22rd decision be annulled. In his initial complaint he stated that he was the authorized agent, attorney, or representative for the Town of Monterey, but the Select Board told Ferris that he





was not an agent for the Town and that he had to remove that statement. Ferris has since filed an amended complaint removing that statement and stating he is the attorney for the Ad Hoc Monterey Dog Park Committee (which is not a Town appointed committee) and as an individual complainant. There was some confusion about which ZBA decision Ferris was appealing; an appeal can only be made within twenty-one days of the decision.

At the May 2nd Select Board meeting, Lazzarini stated that Ferris's complaint inaccurately accuses him of inserting the condition prohibiting other municipal uses after the October 2009 ZBA meeting closed and without the knowledge, discussion or assent of the other members of the ZBA. Lazzarini said that the minutes and tape recording of the hearing prove Ferris's statement to be incorrect, and that while the restrictions set in the first WMH ZBA hearing were mostly his words, they were discussed and modified by all the members of the ZBA that sat on the hearing (see Lazzarini letter to the editor, p. 26).

Lazzarini also requested permission to speak with Town Counsel on the matter, including Ferris's complaint and how that affects the ZBA and the Town. The Select Board said they should speak to Town Counsel first to find out what will happen and in what sequence. They would like to find a way for the ZBA and the Select Board to agree to some kind of alteration to the situation created by the original special permit.

In the May 23rd Select Board meeting, the Board went into executive session with Town Counsel and the ZBA to discuss possible litigation. Stay tuned.

Community Center Driveway

Joe Baker of the Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House Committee met with the Select Board on May 9 to discuss the progress of the driveway ($25,000 was allocated for it at the 2010 Town Meeting). The last decision by the Board was to hold off on installing the driveway since they were not in agreement with where it should go and wanted BRPC to perform a traffic study. Baker said that Maynard Forbes is ready to start the work and that the current plan is to install a one-car-width drive graded with stone underneath and processed gravel on top. Baker also mentioned that some excavation may be needed as there is an old septic tank/field in the area. Sylbert said the ideal scenario now was to spend the minimal amount of money on the driveway and use the remainder of the money on getting an adequate water supply to the property. The Select Board decided to ask Forbes to give a breakdown on the cost estimate of the driveway. They agreed that a traffic study isn't necessary now as it is a low traffic location, but a study will be looked into when we get closer to having a community center.

At their May 16th meeting, the Select Board reviewed the driveway estimates provided by Forbes and had an extensive discussion on the project. Wayne Burkhart felt that the entire project should proceed in a timely manner, because a driveway is a necessary first step in the future uses of the Wilson McLaughlin property. Jon Sylbert, however, thought that the minimum should be done now on the driveway because future uses have not been determined; at present it is only being used for the community garden, and fifty or a hundred feet would suffice for that use; further work could be postponed until money was raised for the community center. The Board voted to install the driveway and a circle now, but to hold off on the parking lot.

Public Works

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported on the following recent activities:

- Cleaned culverts on Fairview Road due to beaver activity.
- Graded Gould, short and long Hupi, Mt. Hunger, New Marlborough, Cronk, and Harmon Roads.
- Picked up debris from Gould Road.
- Picked up trees on Beartown Mtn., Gould, River, Sandisfield, and Swann Roads.
- Attended Superintendent's meeting.
- Worked on FEMA reimbursement papers, Rte. 23 Strap grant papers, and Beartown Mtn. Road project plans.
- Repaired holes on Main Road.
- Met with Tryon Construction regarding Strap grant and Rte. 23.
- Moved old sand pile, cribbing; moved fill to back of site.

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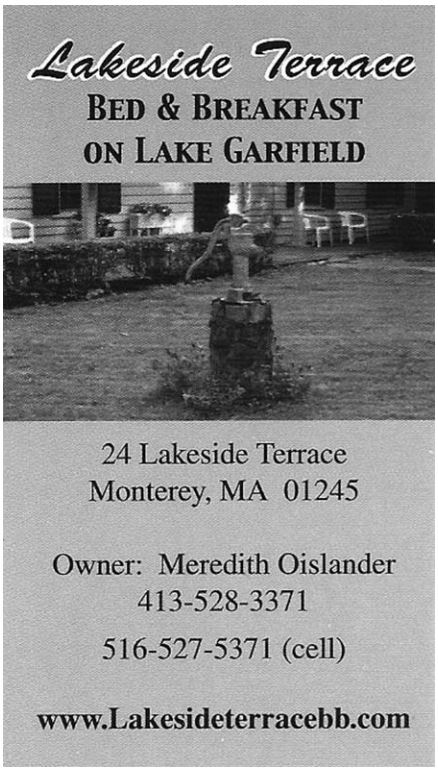

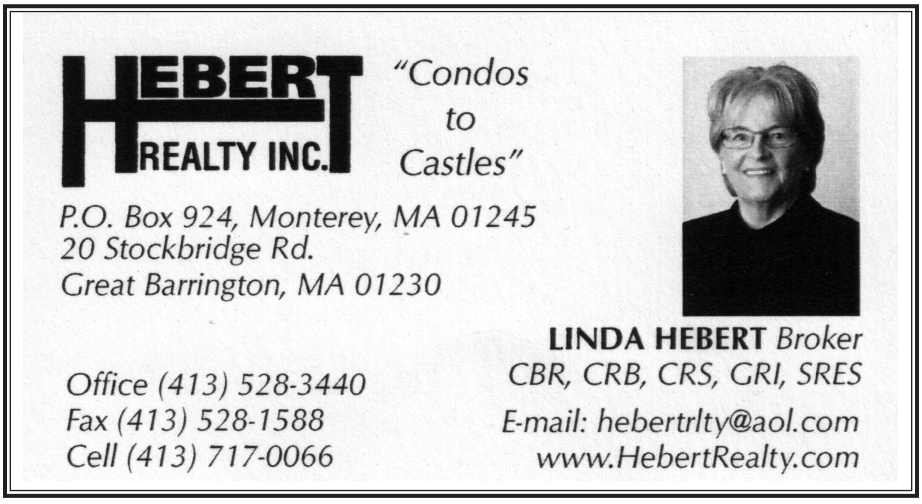

- Swept highway yard.
- Picked up remaining snow fence from around town.
- Moved plows to summer storage.
- Met with Joe Baker on community center driveway and parking lot.
- Mowed intersections.
- Painted crosswalks and stop lines.

The position of Route 23 on the state TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) grant program was discussed. According to Berkshire Regional Planning, Rte 23 is not in terrible shape. However, Forbes and the Select Board feel that unless the road is resurfaced and the center of town milled, in ten years the road will have to be totally replaced. There was a question about whether the road was handling more heavy trucks than it should according to its classification.

Police Matters

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus reported on the following recent Police Department activity:

- Suspicious activity reported on Blue Hill Road, same party, repeat caller, five different days Complaint unfounded.
- Individual advised police of a foreclosure to take place on his property and requested that police look into bank's role in this matter.
- Complaint about violation of a restraining order.
- Suspicious activity reported at former General Store; operator found to be driving with an expired license and had another party pick him up.
- Harassment complaint on Blue Hill Rd; car in question was newspaper delivery vehicle and complaint was unfounded.
- Assisted Fire Department with a call on Blue Hill Road where a strong gas odor was coming from the backyard. Fire Department turned off the gas tanks and informed the resident to contact the gas company.
- Assisted a citizen on Blue Hill Road with phone issues.
- Three false alarms.
- Five traffic stops.
- Abandoned 911 calls, Gould Road
- Lockout, Mt. Hunger Rd.
- Disturbance on Laurel Banks regarding contested demolition of a dock; party ordered to get a court order before beginning demolition.

The Jaffes, who own Richard Chevrolet in Cheshire, CT, and are part time residents of Monterey, have generously offered to replace the transmission in the Blazer at their expense.

Select Board member Wayne Burkhart reported that several of his coworkers have been pulled over on country roads at night for "rolling stops." Select Board member Scott Jenssen said that if there is a stop sign you need to stop, not roll through it. Jon Sylbert noted that Chief Backhaus welcomes comments and suggestions and said that the matter will be turned over to him to be handled in an appropriate manner.

Chief Backhaus attended the Animal Control Officer seminar at Holyoke Community College

Larry Klein attended a Select Board meeting to report that FEMA money is available to pay for communications equipment for the police department. Even though Chief Backhaus has increased the budget for radios, the department needs a new base station, and the Select Board decided to obtain copies of the proper forms and to apply for the money retroactively.

This and That

At the May 9th Select Board meeting, Wayne Burkhart was elected the Board Chairperson for the coming year.

The Fire Department budget was discussed; it was noted that the Fire Department is a nonprofit organization that owns its own building; that while the Town pays some expenses, most capital expenses are handled by the association.

The Town bought new flags for the Memorial Day celebration.

Bob Lazzarini asked for four meetings with Mark Brubowski, an attorney, regarding revision of Town bylaws.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 25TH 8PM ADULTS $15 / UNDER 14 $10
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"Garden Gustation"

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Gustation? The Encarta Dictionary *states: "the action of tasting, or the sense or faculty of taste"*

Aspiring Asparagus

We planted roughly forty crowns of perennial asparagus two years ago, and now it is payday! The asparagus is working its way to the light, and we are quite ecstatic about it. This will be the third season for the asparagus bed, and it is time to reap what we have sown. We planted the crowns with plenty of composted manure and have mulched with straw and leaves. The past two growing seasons we were able to watch the spears break through the ground only to watch them grow into the beautiful ferny looking plants without any harvest. This has (hopefully) strengthened the roots enough to spur them on to send up multiple spears this year. The "crowning" has begun and things are looking good. We will be able to pick the spears for a few weeks this year.

One of the beauties of asparagus is its true seasonal nature. Asparagus turns to mush when frozen and we don't even think about canning it. However, I have come across this super simple soup that can be frozen before the cream has been added, and it truly takes you right back to springtime when you heat it up in January. I think our favorite way to eat the fresh spears is to roast them in a 400-degree oven until tender with a little olive oil, salt and pepper, simply delicious. We've been aspiring for our very own asparagus for a couple years now, and the asparagus is now aspiring to reach the sky. I think we will both be satisfied.

At the Monterey Community Garden Plant Sale, May 28: (left to right) Glynis Marsh, Laurie Shaw, Christine Goldfinger, Libby Wolf, Nancy Rowley, Bonner McAllester, Kate Basler, Toby Frank, Carol Ingher, and Cora Baker. (Photo: Ruth Green)

Cream of Asparagus Soup
Underlined ingredients ours or local

2 Tblsp. butter or oil
1 onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
2½ cups broth, chicken or vegetable
3 cups asparagus
3 oz. cream cheese (can substitute heavy cream or half & half to the desired creaminess)
salt and pepper to taste
Garnish: Roasted Asparagus tips and sour cream

Sauté onions and garlic until tender in large saucepan. Add asparagus and broth and bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer until the asparagus is tender. Let soup cool a bit and puree in blender, food processor, or immersion blender. The soup can be frozen at this stage if desired.

Return soup to heat and add cream cheese stirring until melted. Season with salt and pepper to taste and garnish with roasted asparagus tips and a dollop of sour cream if desired. I imagine this soup would be great with Monterey Chevre too. This recipe can easily be doubled.

Thanks to those of you who have responded. It's been wonderful getting the feedback.

I look forward to hearing more of your ideas and recipes.

— Wendy G. Jensen
wendygj@gmail.com

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Monterey Library Notes

Many thanks to Monica Webb, who spotted that the library had been left off the list of Community Anchor Institutions, which meant we would not be hooked up to the new fiber network that is in the planning stages. After the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative was told of the omission the library was added to the list.

Many thanks to all who attended the Long-Range Planning Forum on May 14. We heard a lot of great ideas from many who attended. That was one way for everyone to participate—the other way is by going to the Monterey Library page on the town's website, http://www.montereyma.gov/Public_Documents/MontereyMA_About/MontLib, and clicking on the link to the short survey. We also have paper copies available at the library and will try to have some available elsewhere. Please take a moment to tell us what you think about current services and where we should be going.

Our summer programs for children will start on Saturday, July 2, at 10:30 am with Ed the Wizard! Plan on bring the kids down for Saturdays in July and the beginning of August. Fun for all ages. Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Friends of the Library book sale on Saturday, July 30. Donations will be accepted , but more importantly we will be looking for volunteers to help run the sale. If you have even an hour or two we can use your help.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

The Knox Room Exhibition Space at Monterey Library

We are thrilled with the support that we've gotten for this venture from the community and the library. Our inaugural exhibit last December consisted of participants from the Monterey Makers open studio tour. Since then we have exhibited paintings by Lew Scheffey, work by the Monterey Kindergarten students, and a quilt display by the Monterey Piecemakers. Our June exhibit will be work by Monterey artist Lois Ryder, with an opening on June 4, 7 to 9 pm and running through July 2 . We thank all these artists for bearing with us through the uncertainties of a new project and for loaning us such a strong and diverse group of work.

Our next planned show will be "Monterey on Paper," which will be open to any Monterey artist and runs from July 8 to August 29. Entry forms are available at the library and at Town Hall, or online at www.montereyma.gov/public (go to town departments and then library). Work must be delivered to the library with the filled-out form on July 6 from 3 to 5 pm, or by appointment. Contact person is Libby Wolf at 528-3877.

We have just begun to explore the possibilities of what can be exhibited in this space. Monterey is full of artists, craftspeople, and other makers. We look at this venue as "Monterey-centric" but also look forward to working with people outside of Monterey. If you are interested in exhibiting in the gallery or in organizing some sort of group exhibition, please let us know. Submission package should include a description of the proposed exhibition, no longer than one page, resume of participants as appropriate, and a CD or website with ten to fifteen images, delivered to the Knox Room in the Library. We have currently scheduled shows through January 2012.

Keep an eye on the *Monterey News* for exhibitions, come to the library and see what's up, and please join us for openings or closing gatherings along with the artists.

— Knox Room Exhibition Committee
Libby Wolf, Julie Shapiro, Ellen Grenadier

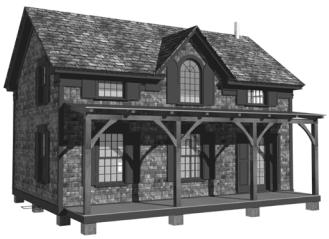
Lake Garfield Boating Season

Please have boats in the lake before June 11. Boats MAY be put in when there are no lifeguards on duty at the Town Beach. Canoes and kayaks may use the boat ramp at any time.

ALL boats owners should read the regulations regarding zebra mussel prevention, which are available at the boat ramp.

If there are any questions, please call me at 528-1233.

— Dean Amidon,
Lake Garfield Deputy Harbormaster



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May Wildlife Report

Many Montereyans sent in their wildlife sightings for May, and as you might expect for this month, it was all about birds. There were a few furry mammals on the scene as well, and they were large.

Early in the month, Jacob Makuc was riding in the Monterey School Van and spotted a moose on Hupi Road. Later the same morning, when the driver returned with the kindergarten students, there was the moose, still in the same place. There was also a moose in Tyringham in late April, where it was spotted by Maureen Regan.

At the end of April, a bear came to Carol Ingher's place on Lake Buel. Her birdfeeder was taken down, moved around, and dented. She has stopped feeding the birds, but a bit too late. Will and Glynis Marsh were eating supper indoors May 14 while a bear was bending down their pole-style feeder just on the other side of the kitchen wall. Seeds for supper.

Also on Lake Buel, Kyle Pierce reports a visiting bear right outside her window on May 14. The weekend before, on May 8, at the Bidwell House, a bear took down a bluebird box which had three eggs inside. Later in the month Keith O'Brien saw a bear on the 21st. This one was on Blue Hill Road near Brett Road.

Now for the birds. Indigo buntings, mergansers, Baltimore orioles, rose-breasted grosbeaks, hummingbirds, three kinds of warblers at least, barn swallows, bluebirds, great blue herons, and thirty turkey vultures on a pile of logs. There were yellow-bellied sapsuckers, an osprey,

Sapsucker (Photo: Maureen Banner)

and goldfinches in groups, also a pileated woodpecker. Anna Poirier of New Marlborough Road reports a distinguished siskin with a long curved bill. This turns out to be a deformity people are seeing in several species of birds, one which is undergoing study of some sort by the USGS. So if you see such a thing, report it to them and maybe someone will learn something.

Thanks so much to Connie Garber, Kit Patten, Suzanne Sawyer, Lynn Leavitt, and George Emmons, as well as Anna Poirier, for sending in your bird news. Also to Will Marsh, who got his bent pole straightened out and back in operation just in time to welcome a male indigo bunting.

Keep sending me your news of wildlife in these parts! Thank you.

— Bonner McAllester
bmca@berkshire.net or 528-9385.

Birds & Blooms Talk & Walk

Come to hear René Laubach, Director of the Massachusetts Audubon Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries, author of Audubon Guide to the National Wildlife Refuges: New England and A Guide to Natural Places in the Berkshire Hills, give a lively and informative powerpoint lecture in the Monterey Meetinghouse (church basement) on Friday, June 17, at 7:15 pm.

The presentation is free. All are welcome, and refreshments will be served.

The Morning After: Bird Walk

Bring binoculars on Saturday, June 18, at 8:15 in the morning, rain or shine, for the Monterey Bird Walk led by René. The meeting location is to be announced. This event is also free, with enrollment limited to twenty participants. Please preregister for this outdoor part of the program with John Heffernan 413-644-9235.

These programs are brought to you by the Monterey Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Select Board Summer Meetings Time

Starting June 13 and going through August 29, the Monterey Select Board meetings will begin at 5 pm on Mondays. On September 12, they will return to a 7 pm start time.

As always, if you'd like to be on their agenda please call Inter-Departmental Secretary Melissa Noe at 528-1443 x111.

From the Meetinghouse . . .

Japan, Part 1 of 4: The Monterey Connection and Gerry's Letter

When Gerry and Midori Curtis built their home in Monterey thirty-three years ago, it was because they wanted a home away from the city. Gerry is the Burgess Professor of Political Science at Columbia University, and a specialist on Japan. Midori is a gifted graphic artist specializing in intaglio prints. They both were ready to raise their daughters and spend their time not only in New York but also in a rural place that seemed somewhat disconnected from the hurly-burly of life in the larger world. But when they chose to move here, neither suspected that Midori already had ties to the Berkshires, connections that stretched across the ocean to her native Japan, and back in time to 1962.

I only met Midori about six months ago, which has something to do with the Curtises' weekend habits. On Sunday mornings last winter, while Gerry spread his skiing wings at Butternut, Midori would tiptoe quietly into the Monterey Meetinghouse. They weren't in Monterey when the Sendai earthquake struck on March 11, but soon Midori and I were in touch by email.

Yes, as far as she knew, everyone in her family was alive and well. Yes, the disaster was unspeakable, incomprehensible. No, she didn't know any more yet. Gallery Lime, where she was supposed to have a show opening May 21, was in an area ravaged by the quake. The owner was okay, but it looked like the show would have to be postponed or cancelled, hardly a concern, given the circumstances. Yes, she'd keep us posted.

After the necessary arrangements were made, Gerry left for Japan in mid-April, to offer whatever help his expertise could provide. Midori received an email from him in early May, shortly after he returned from the devastated area. He said:

It is midnight. I just got back to the hotel at Hanamaki in Iwate prefecture. I spent over two hours today talking with people in the evacuation center at Watari-cho. Wonderful, brave people who are so worried about the future. They have nothing. One woman told me that all she owns now are the clothes she is wearing and the cell phone she had with her when she fled the tsunami. But she smiles and says she will be okay. Everyone tries to be brave and positive but the longer I talked with them the more they revealed how scared they are about the future. Their homes are gone, all that is left is the concrete foundation. The land has sunk 70 centimeters (about 27.5 inches) or more, so they cannot rebuild there even if they want to. And in any case they don't have the money to rebuild and they don't have jobs.

The stories I heard today were heartbreaking. I was taken to the evacuation center by a local town assemblyman. There were three men sitting together, one was 70, another 80 and the third 43. The assemblyman asked the 70-year-old man to talk to me but he said that he didn't want to. But the assemblyman, who comes from the same village, asked him to do him a favor and just answer a question or two. I sat down on the floor right next to him and tried to get him to start talking.

At first all I got were short guarded replies. But before long he couldn't stop, telling me how scared he is about what he is going to do, how angry he is that the government was not giving him any sense of what it was ready to do to help. He has no house, no job, his fishing boat is gone, and he has no hope. And then the 43-year-old man, who like many people in this village made his living growing strawberries, started talking about how hopeless he felt. He doesn't want to leave the village, which is the only place he has known. He wants to work and has no prospect of finding work doing what he loves to do, which is raising strawberries.

An elderly woman told me with a chuckle that she got divorced when she was 37, raised her children by herself, and made a living growing strawberries, so she will survive this tsunami disaster too. But then as we talked she admitted that she was so anxious and worried about the future. She is 80 years old, she said, but she wants to work until she is 100—and

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she looked like she is going to be able to do it—but she is stuck in the evacuation center and has nothing to do, and she is worried that just sitting around day after day is going to kill her.

Another 80-year-old woman said that she doesn't want to leave the evacuation center if it means moving to temporary housing where she is separated from her friends in the village she has lived in all her life and if she has to rely on her son to drive her to the doctors who take care of her. She wants the government to resettle all the people from the same village in the same temporary housing. She said, and others said the same thing, that they would prefer to stay in the evacuation center with their friends and neighbors until they can all be resettled together than be separated and move into temporary housing right away.

I drove up from Watarichо in Miyagi to Hanamaki in Iwate this evening, a two-and-a-half-hour drive after a long emotionally draining day of interviews and went to dinner at a local restaurant and drank lots of sake. I am wiped out though my adrenaline is pumping away. I feel so sad for the victims of the tsunami and the uncertain future that those who survived face, so inspired by their courage, and so angry at the politicians in Tokyo who are doing nothing to give these people a sense of hope.

HOPE

But hope raised a flag anyway. Despite the devastation, or perhaps because of it, the gallery owner approached Midori to ask if she was willing to have a show focused instead on her earlier work. Yes, she would. Invitations to the show feature a print she made a few years ago. It's title? "Hope."

The Curtises will return from Japan in a few months and come to Monterey for the month of August. When we at the Meetinghouse asked Midori, "Where can we send donations?" she directed us to the website for the American Committee for KEEP (Kiyosato Educational Exchange Program), www.ackeep.org. When she was a child, Midori's family spent many summers at the KEEP summer camp there.

"Kiyosato is surrounded by many beautiful mountains, and among them we can see the beautiful and elegant Mt. Fuji," Midori said recently. "Kiyosato is very similar to the town of Monterey. Cool in the summer time with lots of flowers. Nice breeze and very soothing."

The camp was envisioned in 1937 and established in 1938 by Paul Rusch, an American missionary. An interesting synchronicity with the present situation, he first arrived in Japan to help rebuild the Yokahama YMCA after the 1925 earthquake. Once in Japan, he decided to stay.

"We got to know many people and we all have fond memories," Midori added. "I was baptized at St. Andrew's Church when I was six years old, and Paul Rusch was my godfather. I also worked as a summer camp volunteer there for many teenage summers."

The KEEP summer camp at Kiyosato is also the site for Midori's 1962 Berkshire connections. You'll find out about those connections in next month's article. Not only because of our town's connection with KEEP through Midori, but even more because of the great need that Gerry described in his email, I hope you will go to www.ackeep.org and make a donation.

— Mary Kate Jordan

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Monterey Meeting House
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Monterey in the Civil War

One hundred and fifty years after the events of 1861 to 1864, we seem to dismiss the role Monterey played in the Civil War. We simply don't hear much about it. After all, the town was really small compared to its size and clout before its then-recent division from Tyringham (1847). Once sizeable, the new town's population was reduced to 640 persons in the 1860 census, down from 1,402 before the division.

But the war had a huge impact on Monterey and its young men, as will be seen. Young men from this town were recruited into regional and statewide regiments. They were part of all the major battles of the Civil War. As you probably know, more young Americans were killed in certain specific battles during that war than during any of the entire wars of our more recent history. Monterey was no exception to the long lists of killed and wounded. That local history remains mute due to the fact that we in the North rarely hear about the incredible struggles of most of the recruits from South Berkshire, nor do we hear about the locations and reasons for most of their particular battles and sacrifices.

One interesting fact about the material available to us in Monterey concerns a lack of photographs of the young men who went to war from here. We can see and show photos of battlegrounds, after the fact in most cases. We can show the role of the home front and something of the medical care available to casualties—all from photographs of the time. But photos of infantry recruits in the public domain or in the collection of the Historical Society are rare to nonexistent. We are promised a photo of one young casualty in the Fargo family and one of the largest group of infantry recruits sent from Monterey. And, we have one official photograph of another soldier, who fortunately for us was a Quartermaster for his regiment. An official photo was commonplace for officers in that war, but not for regular infantry. We're on the hunt for a similar photo of a recruit into the Massachusetts 20th, 31st, and 57th who became a Lieutenant over the course of the war, but he wasn't from a still-local family.

The Fargo family, Lake Garfield area, ca. 1862. Two went to war from this family, and one was killed. (Photo courtesy Fargo family and Monterey Historical Society)

So, if you have a photograph of one of your family recruited from Monterey or credited to Monterey at that time, now would be a good time to share with this community. We know some of your "lines" go back two and three hundred years here so please rummage in your family tintypes and daguerreotypes or those really old glass-enclosed negatives to see if you've got one of the Monterey recruits to share. If you are a descendant who lives elsewhere but gets the Monterey News, we'd appreciate your taking a look to see if one of yours was in the 10th, 20th, 27th, 31st, 49th, 54th (we had five in the "Glory" regiment), or the 57th Infantry Regiments from Massachusetts and you just happen to have a likeness of that family member.

— Barbara Swann

Barbara Swann will lecture on Monterey in the Civil War on Friday, July 8, at 7:15 at the Monterey Meetinghouse. The event is free, sponsored by the Monterey Cultural Council.

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We longed to carry the real War and Peace
hefting this weight,
Tolstoy walks with us –
art as he intended,
cradled in our arms.

— M. Hamilton

Talking to My Dog

She understands my smiles and sighs,
reacts to oft-repeated cues.
Alert, with large and limpid eyes,
she's sorting out what she can use.
I act as though we could converse
by talking to her endlessly;
sometimes in prose, sometimes in verse.
Without a doubt, excessively.
Though science tells us dogs are smart,
I know full well she'll never speak.
So, with my talk, I "play a part."
Companionship is all I seek.
We greet each other face-to-face.
Unlike those met in cyberspace.

— Ed Schur

Moon

The moon fills, empties
changing every second
the bright still Sun's reflection.

— A. O. Howell

Rick Friedman

Will We Have a New General Store?

On April 3, 2011, our Monterey General Store followed the path of so many small town stores and closed its doors.

On May 21, at 3:00 pm, upward of one hundred people gathered in the Church basement (above), bent on resurrecting the store in a form yet to be determined. The store had been in existence for 225 years. At times, it had even been a restaurant.

The presence of Selectman Jon Sylbert and State Representative Smitty Pignatelli gives credence to just how important that store is to this town. The "heartbeat of Monterey" was an often-heard descriptor.

The hope is that an entrepreneur will step up and rent or buy the store; however, in the event that that doesn't happen quickly, residents are discussing taking the matter into their own hands. There is consensus that a new business model for the store is needed to insure greater financial success.

An abundance of thoughts and questions radiated from the room. Would a new store have prepared foods? An income-producing real estate desk to be staffed on weekends? An art gallery for local crafts people? Apartments on the second floor? Should it be a store by day and a restaurant by night? How about a cash machine? Should a coop be formed? (There has already been a meeting with the Great Barrington Coop.) Would Gould Farm be interested in operating the store? Is there a way to connect with the library? Does the town need to transform itself into more of a destination?

The meeting gave birth to a short-term plan, to be evolved as we move forward. The idea would be to rent the store, ideally for three months, starting ASAP. Start-up money would perhaps come from a Berkshire Taconic Foundation Community Fund. A committee is being formed with about a dozen people, each with different areas of expertise: food, finance, legal, real estate, fund raising, etc.

If you have questions, ideas, or money, or if you want to be kept up to date on what's going on via our email list, contact Pat Salomon (drpatsalomon@aol.com) and/or Hy Rosen (rosenhy@gmail.com).

If you want to buy or rent the store, email the seller's agent TimLovett@gmail.com.

— Hy Rosen

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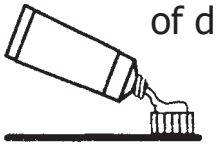

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Email:dennis.downing@verizon.net

The Steaks (and Swordfish) Will Be Sizzling

Bring your family, your friends and your appetites. The Monterey Fire Company will host its 34th annual Steak Roast on July 30, at the firehouse pavilion.

Tickets are $25 each. They can be purchased in any of the following ways:

- from any firefighter;
- in downtown Monterey on weekend mornings during July;
- on Wednesday evenings at the firehouse, 411 Main Road, from 7 to 9 pm;
- by calling 528-3136 (leave a message, someone will get back to you).

Tickets will not be available at the gate.

A summertime highpoint in Monterey, the Steak Roast draws more than 700 townspeople and summer visitors. In addition to the food—steaks, swordfish, assorted side dishes, salad, desserts, beer, wine, and soft drinks—there will be live music and entertainment for the children.

The Steak Roast, a critical fundraiser for the Monterey Fire Company, began in 1977. Back then it was held in Greene Park behind the Town Hall. It required a month-long logistical journey, notable with regard to how firefighters had to scavenge all over South County for tables and chairs. They used an old refrigerated truck for a cooler, but the truck itself didn't run so it had to be towed in for the event.

But once the pavilion was built, the Steak Roast found its permanent home, and with all the amenities—including a kitchen and a walk-in cooler. (The Fire Company also now owns a veritable fleet of chairs and tables.)

"It's become an event that people really look forward to," said Fire Chief Shawn Tryon. "It's a great day for the town. The food is really good. The music is really good. It's all for a good cause, and we invite everyone to join us."

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Abraham Lincoln's Advice

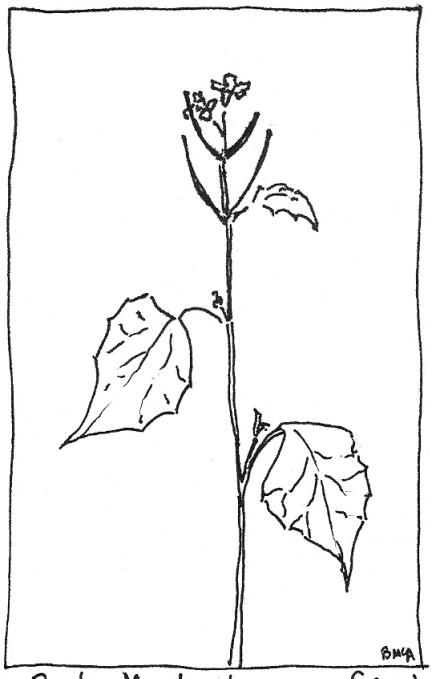
"I destroy my enemies when I make them my friends." Abraham Lincoln said that, and it is a radical notion. Take, for instance, certain terrible invasive plants creeping up on us on all sides. They are green, absorb CO2, hold the soil when erosion threatens. They masquerade as regular green pals, plants one could love to love like all the rest of nature. Don't be fooled, though. If you look them up, you will find they are newcomers, introduced here by some fluke or ill fortune. They don't fit in, never will, and ought to be yanked and tossed, preferably on a pleasant weekend with a group of friends and maybe a picnic. Keep that picnic place like we like it, with good old native species, only.

Around here the plant that used to make us mad, also make us cry sometimes, was an invader in our barnyard. I think by some criteria it was no newcomer to the USA, but it certainly was new to our barnyard, and it grew very tall and attacked us. It was nettles.

Our goats had to walk around in the barnyard and so did we. We all liked to walk out the path to the pasture, but pretty soon you could not see over the nettles, and you certainly did not want to walk through them because they would sting you.

So we got out the scythes and went after them, clearing a place for the dairy goats and their youngsters to hike up to the good grazing. The nettles grew back twice as strong, but we whacked them down again. It was a job, a new one for us, but we kept up with it.

Then the children grew up, we quit drinking milk, and one day there were no more goats. There was no need to keep up our defenses against those eight-foot nettles so we let them take over. We also had a neighbor come by one spring and were amazed when she leaped into the nettle patch with her tote-bag, which she filled up with leaves and tips. "Oh, thank you, thank you!" she exclaimed. So we looked them up, found out all their attributes, including the fact that they are 10



Garlic Mustard, a new friend thanks to Mr. Lincoln.

percent protein. This is a lot, in fact, a lot more than you get from milk. I just looked up milk and found it is 3.5 percent protein. If I chomped up and ate a third of a cup of nettles I'd be getting a glass of milk's worth of protein, by the numbers.

Now nettles were not my enemy but my friend. I practiced Abraham Lincoln's radical destruction of my enemy using enlightenment plus math (about protein). Also, I did not have to whack away with the scythe to welcome the nettles. I just had to let them come.

Then one year we noticed a new shade of green in the old barnyard, also little white blossoms. This was another plant newcomer on the horizon, possibly an enemy. We feared for the welfare of our new friends, the nettles, growing in the same place. We ran for the scythes, again, but there was no way to swing and whack without taking down our high-protein nettles. So we went for enlightenment and found the newcomers were bad, bad plants. They were garlic mustard, Allaria petiolata, also called Jack by the Hedge and Sauce Alone. They were certified invasive, real candidates for weekend warfare. We were advised to yank and bag them, take them to detention centers or at least places where they could not see the light of day, could not root and spread again.

Since we hate to trust those institutionalized protection places and look to solve our own problems at home, we delivered the invaders to the chickens. "Eat these," we said, "and turn them into eggs which we will then eat. No rooting, no sprouting."

Chickens are mainly interested in bugs and worms. They worked over the garlic mustard plants, focused on the roots and any dirt clinging there. At the end of

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the day, the plants lay a little droopy with their roots cleaned off, but chickens did not eat them. We chewed over the problem: garlic mustard, garlic mustard. "Garlic! Mustard! WE like to eat those our own selves . . . !"

So this year for the first time in our long decades of ongoing enlightenment, we started picking the garlic mustard and steaming, sautéing, and chomping them down ourselves. You have guessed it: we made another friend, destroyed another enemy. In fact, we can love our two former enemies at the same time, in the same stir-fry. They turn out to be friends with each other, as well as with us.

Thank you, Mr. Lincoln. I just wish all your enemies had been so easy to befriend. Maybe people-type enemies are more complicated, not so easy to destroy and befriend by cooking and chomping down. This would have prevented a violent death at the opera, at least for Lincoln, but his legend sure would have been different.

Here's the next Lincoln quote I aim to live by: "If I had eight hours to chop down a tree, I'd spend six hours sharpening the axe." Stay tuned.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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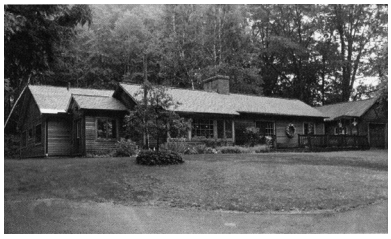

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Art by Lois Ryder at Monterey Library

The Monterey Library is excited to be exhibiting the work of Monterey artist Lois Ryder. The work will be shown in the Knox Room at the library from June 4 through July2. There will be an opening reception on Saturday evening, June 4, from 7–9 pm.

Mrs. Ryder works primarily with Scratchboard. A Scratchboard image is created by working on a Masonite board that has been covered with a white Kaolin clay ground and then coated with black India ink. The artist then scratches through the top layer with an angular pen point and creates depth and form through a series of white, linear strokes that show up against the black background. Acrylic paint or colored inks are sometimes added for color. The medium has a visual similarity to etching; however, unlike a print each Scratchboard image is unique. In speaking of her own work Mrs. Ryder says, "My interest in nature and the accessibility to the beauty of the New England seasons has inspired me to create images of wildlife, landscape and still lifes."

Mrs. Ryder's artwork had been published in many magazines and books, including Yankee Magazine and The Women's Times. She is a member of several regional and national art organizations, including the National Academic Artists Association and the Housatonic Valley Art League and is an Elected Artist of the Kent Art Association, Connecticut.

Park Commission News: Town Beach & Movie

Town Beach

The Monterey Town Beach will open officially starting weekends on June 11 and 12, and again on June 18 and 19. Full-time lifeguards will be on duty starting Friday, June 24, through the Labor Day weekend.

Swimming lessons will again be offered the week of July 11 and again the week of August 15. Sign-ups for these lessons will be with the lifeguards at the Town Beach. The cost is $5 per child, not to exceed $10 per family.

As a reminder to all would-be boaters, the boat ramp will be closed during the hours the beach is open. There can be no loading or off-loading of boats from 10 am to 6 pm when lifeguards are on duty.

3rd Annual Monterey Movie Night

The Park Commission is asking for help in the movie selection this year. We have narrowed it down to five possibilities and hope that these picks cover the gamut of moviegoer wants. Please be heard—email your pick to us at montereyparks@verizon.net or leave a message on our town hall extension by calling 582-1443 ext 248.

The selections to choose from this year are *The Princess Bride*, *Chity Chity Bang Bang*, *Escape to Witch Mountain*, *Toy Story*, *E.T.*

Movie Night will be Saturday night, August 6. That's the week after the Fire Department Steak Roast.

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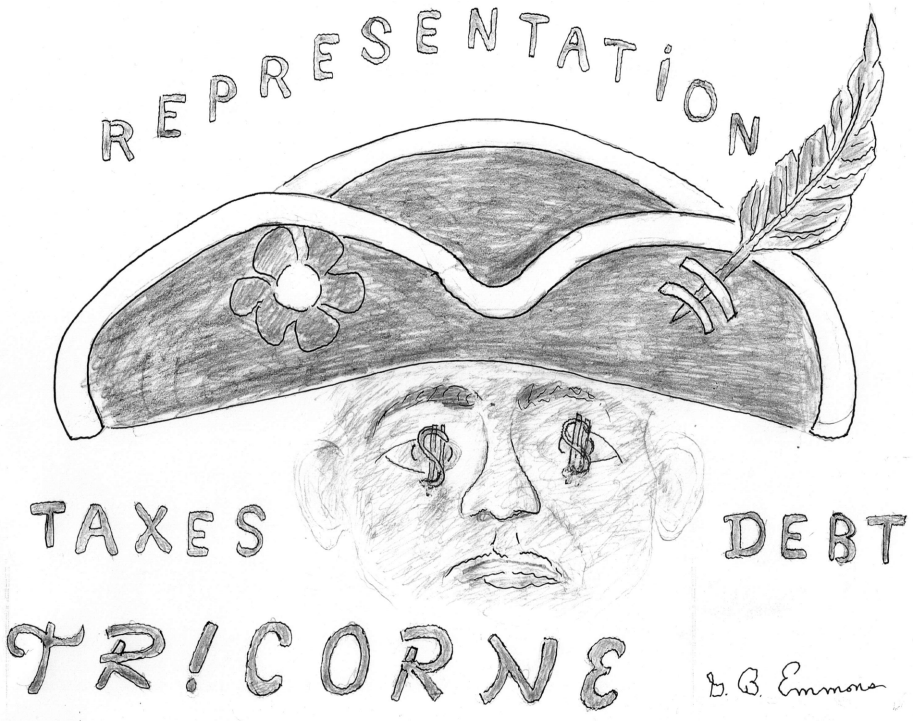
Memorial Day and Colonial Rebellion



Once again the observance of Memorial Day honors veterans who served in wars and fought for their country, including those who fought in the first conflict that we take pride in calling the war for independence. Early American literature played a significant role in immortalizing the Revolution; in particular, I think of the poem "The Midnight Ride Of Paul Revere" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. This epic ride through every Middlesex village and town led to a most serious burning of gunpowder by embattled farmers at the Concord Bridge immortalized by Ralph Waldo Emerson as "the shot heard round the world."

Actually the real trouble had previously exploded in the year 1773 when Sam Adams and fellow citizens dressed up as Indians to toss crates of imported English tea from British ships into Boston Harbor, a deliberate act of political vandalism which history has labeled the Boston Tea Party. And later, in 1786 when the war was over, an agrarian rebellion was started by Daniel Shays and some eight hundred farmers who had fought for independence and, though never paid for their services, were being pressed into debt to pay for the war itself. Shays was defeated and prosecuted; he was eventually pardoned but died impoverished, claiming he had been fighting for the same principles he supported and been wounded for in the Revolution.

A few years later, after Washington had become president, the Whisky Rebellion was a revolt against the country's first domestic excise tax, also to pay for the war. Farmers in Pennsylvania tarred, feathered, and rode out of town on a rail a collector trying to tax their favorite homemade beverage.

Now in the past year, the term "Tea Party" has come alive again on the political scene. This in many ways shows that our economy and national mood can be symbolized as a tricorne, the three-cornered colonial hat; the three corners might be said to represent (1) increased taxation, (2) citizens unhappy with representation, and (3) a huge amount of individual and national debt that is sending future generations into fiscal servitude to pay off. Perhaps in honoring our veterans on this Memorial Day, it is time to put partisan politics behind us and peacefully pull together to get this country back on track and in tune with our glorious history. In the first war and subsequent rebellions many economic principals were part of a hard-fought struggle.

— George B. Emmons

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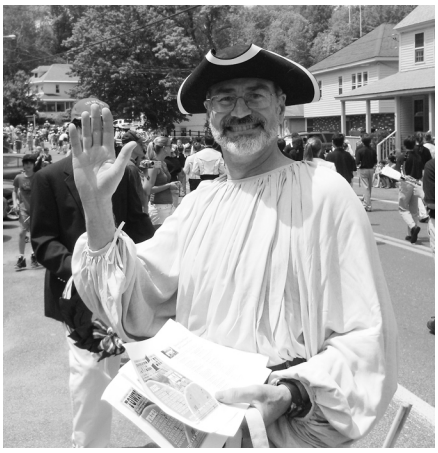
Bidwell House Events

Township No. 1 Day
Saturday, July 2, 1–4:30 pm

The Bidwell House Museum is inviting all residents of Monterey and Tyringham and their friends to the second annual Township No. 1 Day, a celebration of local history. Fun events are planned for the whole afternoon of Saturday, July 2:

- Live music by local musicians
- A hike from Tyringham to the Bidwell House on historic Royal Hemlock Trail
- A talk by Historian Bernie Drew on his most recent book: Bear Town Mountain and Burgoyne Pass: History Recovered
- Antiques appraisals by Charlie Flint of Charles Flint Antiques, Lenox
- Demonstration of the working of a forge by Steve McAlister
- Tour of the heirloom vegetable gardens led by Ruth Green
- Crafts, games and face painting for kids
- A pie and cake baking contest
- And much more!

Bring your friends to spend Saturday afternoon of the Independence Day weekend at the Bidwell House Museum on Art School Road. Enter a pie or cake in the contest! All events are free, thanks to the support of grants from the Tyringham Cultural Council and the Monterey Cultural Council and a fantastic group of volunteers. For more information, please call 528-6888.



Will Marsh

Rob Hoogs, Bidwell House man on the scene, Memorial Day parade

Arbor Building Workshop
Saturday, June 11

Ruth Green of Green Arts Garden Design and Michael Banner, of Michael & Maureen Banner, Silversmiths, are offering a workshop on building garden arbors. The workshop will take place at the Bidwell House Museum on Saturday, June 11, at 10 a.m. There is a suggested donation of $15 ($10 for museum members) to support the museum programs.

"Splitsville: Tyringham and Monterey in 1847," Talk by Clinton Elliott: Saturday, June 25, 10 am

As former longtime chairman of the Tyringham Historical Commission, Clint Elliott is an expert on the story of the town. An intrepid researcher, he has gone way beyond what is popularly known about the early days of this part of the Berkshires. Years ago, he became intrigued by the division of the town of Tyringham and creation of the town of Monterey and looked for evidence of what led to the split. He followed the trail from the records of early proprietors' meetings, which took place outside of Boston in Watertown, not here, to the town records, and to contemporary 1840s newspaper accounts.

On Saturday, June 25, at 10 am, Clint Elliott will tell the story of the two settlements in the town of Tyringham, what they were like and why they had to split. He will also talk about what he found in the Boston records on the naming of the town of Monterey – the name of a bloody battle far away, chosen near the time of the beginnings of the Civil War. This unusual choice apparently involved no local consultation!

Mr. Elliott is the author of African Americans in the Berkshires: Tyringham and Monterey 1850 (2007) and the editor of the revised 1989 edition of Tyringham: A Hinterland Settlement by Eloise Myers. His talk is sponsored by the Bidwell House Museum and will be held at the Tyringham Union Church on Main Road in Tyringham. There is a suggested donation of $15 ($10 for museum members) to support the museum programs.

Job Opportunities at the Bidwell House Museum

- Administrative Manager: 12 hours per week, Mondays and Fridays
- Live in Caretaker/Docent: Complete job descriptions and application instructions are on the museum's website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

— Barbara Palmer, Executive Director

ॐ

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I am: a recent college graduate, in my first job, renting my first apartment, and a neat freak. Therefore, imagine what my first vacuum cleaner looks like—and how much it cost at Best Buy. Now, picture my weekend cleaning routine; actually maybe you'd better just kept reading. I dislike any dirt on the floor, and I like a clean cozy home. This should explain why I performed a quality control check in the store last summer before I purchased the device. I'm not sure what the sales folks thought about my compulsiveness, but one of them invited me over to vacuum his living room. A stereotypical pickup line perhaps, but then again, I was testing my vacuum cleaner.

A low-priced item seems cost effective until it starts malfunctioning, and it turns out you get what you pay for. Americans get a general A average grade for consumption habits, but quality is less of a priority. I grew up hearing my parents reminiscing about the good old days when things lasted thirty years and simultaneously bemoaning the decay of items only a year old. The golden age of quality American goods seems to be headed in the same downward spiral as the age-old American dream of a flourishing and prosperous middle class.

When my "check brush" light went on a few months ago, I made a mental note to clean the brush. That seemed to help a bit, so I made a second mental note to clean it more often. Unfortunately, the light just kept coming back on; simply cleaning the brush didn't help. It occurred to me that perhaps the light itself was malfunctioning. Nope, the brush was not turning smoothly, and the suction wasn't what it once was—once being back when I tested it in Best Buy. I considered that maybe it needed a new filter, but remembering to buy one was another story.

My dad and my stepmother arrived in early April to take in the cherry blossoms, see the sights, and visit my place. My dad likes a good challenge, and he likes to fix things—both extremely welcomed when I'm used to fending for myself. After he sharpened my high-end kitchen knives, created plastic protector covers for them, informed me that the sponges on my sink smelled like bacteria (and reminded me to microwave-kill the germs), and cleaned out the air vent, I casually mentioned that I had a vacuum-cleaner issue.

I took comfort in the fact he started much like I had, cleaning the actual brush—except he used his pocketknife to cut the wrapped-up hair and lint right off it. Okay, so I still have some stuff to learn apparently—unless this was one of those "don't try this unsupervised" situations. The light went off—until we used it. Next, he emptied the dirt container and took out my filter, confirming in the process that I did in fact need a new one. Maybe it is time to put it on the actual shopping list. His process was, again no surprise here, more thorough than mine; he used one of the smaller vacuum brushes to clean it out. Then, much to our surprise, the light still came on—but the suction was definitely better. It was also making a bit of an odd "rurring" sound that I didn't recognize. That's when the saga really started. Let it be said, there is no guarantee that you'll get a cheap appliance back together if you decide to take it apart. My father however, is a master and was not daunted by the task.

I won't go into every single detail, but suffice to say that, while it took five minutes to take the machine apart and determine there is no real issue with the brush itself, it took us a solid thirty-five to forty minutes to put it back together. Then the brush didn't turn as easily as it once did, but it did seem to turn so one can just conclude it's "wearing out." The issue here is that these types of vacuums, the cheap ones, are made to throw out. They are not made to last, and they are not made to fix. This is why we have too much garbage in the world and why landfills dot our landscapes. Aside from the screws, the rubber belt, and maybe one other component, everything in this vacuum is made of plastic. Not only that, but the pieces wouldn't stay in their designated slots long enough to close the top and bottom back together correctly. Sitting on the floor of my apartment wrestling with that vacuum reinforced my commitment to buying high quality products as soon as possible.

Eventually, we figured out that one screw was presenting a significant, and unnecessary, holdup to our efforts. Yet, even after we readjusted the pieces, it wasn't a perfect close. Bless my father's persistence, because despite his frustration with "these cheap things," he refused to end the day with a maintenance scoreboard of anything other than Father 5, appliances 0.

Last weekend as the dirt was disappearing, the light glowed a triumphant orange. I'll take what I can get; it seems that indicator lights get it wrong sometimes. I'd like to get one full year out of this contraption at the very least. The vacuum my parents had lasted about thirty years; when I have my own place, I'm going to invest in a high-quality one—and I'm still going to test it in the store.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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Nine-tenths of a mile heading east on route 23 past the Monterey Store, on your left—X marks the spot. You better go slow or you'll miss it because it's the tiniest little store that ever was—it's our nano hut. We are very pleased with our less-is-more store; our mini-is-big-trendsetter store; our it's-so-small-you-just-reach-in-the-door store; our honor system get-out-of-your-car-and-leave-the-money-in-the-jar store.

Our best-selling and only items right now are our best-in-show eggs. But we have big plans for the future and hope to be able to display more of our shares and wares soon in this artful and intimate space. Future favorites under negotiations for growth and production are other home-grown and homemade certainties and possibilities such as pickles, rhubarb, strawberries, raspberries, dinosaur eggs, eco friendly buzz-word type inventions, iddy-biddy framed fine art and cards and miniature wood carvings, and . . . and . . . and who knows what all might fit in our best big-things-come-in-small-package store. We are working on some secret designs that must be protected till later release.

As for now we have worked out a deal with the chickens, who are asking $3.50/dozen for their precious eggs. Our roving senior dog inspector of premises is Beulah, after whom we named our Beulah Land Farm. Watch out for her; she has been said to have some bad breath.

Our property is under various stages of construction but our nano hut is free and clear and open for business and basically complete except for some minor landscaping and lighting details. As our interior design department finishes up some final touches, customers will be encouraged to leave their own two cents and may now and again find some pocketsize inspirational offerings as the mood strikes.

There are of course plans for future multiplication and expansion. Aside from Eric's woodshop out back (currently inviting custom furniture commissions) and the various homestead operations, there is a non-profit on the verge of status with a short and sweet mission statement that includes being able to help someone or some two or three in need of living, working, or learning in a supportive environment, space permitting—namely, first, a certain middle-aged sister in need who has a rare genetic disorder that predisposes her to an above average happy and social personality but makes her very slowwwwww in coordinating everything else. We are sorting out how to become her foster family and transition her from a bad situation in another state to provide for her care and accommodation (My Sister's Keeper project funding in prayer).

Eric Pedersen

No telling what might happen—maybe a little village of variations on the nano hut; a much larger Dutch frame barn/farm store/gallery/art and movement studio; a hands-on homestead and timber-frame learning center; a not-for-profit DIY health and wellness program; an intergenerational cohabitation off the grid; a build-your-own sculptural, efficient wind turbine from junk in yer yard group project; a new model for low cost, purposeful life for the disabled and less than disabled, all the way to the very abled . . .

So, we have much work before us, great faith, vision, and imagination, and we are looking ahead to a time when we will be looking back to where it all started—through eggs by the dozen at the Nano Hut.

Thank you in advance if you should shop, buy, and enjoy our eggs and/or partner in any way with the future of the Nano Store.. We may be contacted at 528-3594 or eric7inc@gmail.com

— Eric, Debra and Alf Pedersen,
and Beulah Joe the dog

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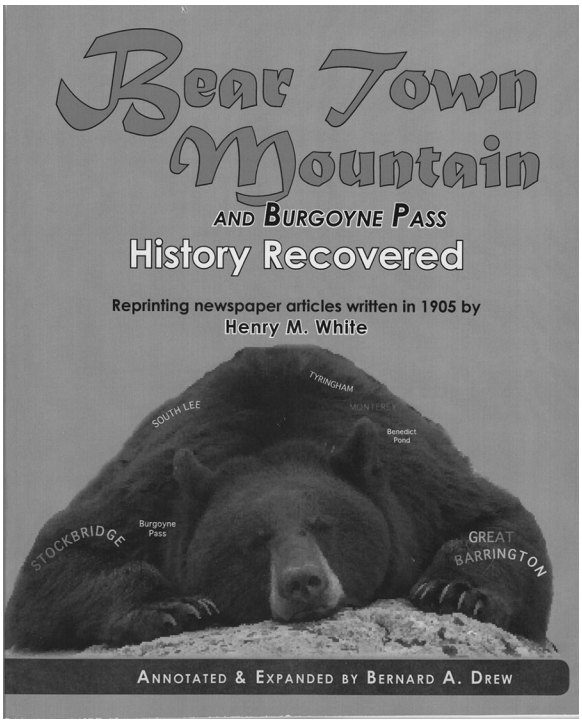
Parish Pilgrimage: 20 miles in 23 hours

Come walk the parish pilgrimage the weekend of June 11–12. Our Lady of the Valley (OLOV) Church actually consists of three churches, OLOV in Sheffield, Immaculate Conception in Mill River, and Our Lady of the Hills in Monterey. Participants will hike the twenty miles in twenty-three hours beginning in Monterey at noon on Saturday, June 11. The route goes from that mission church at 70 Beartown Mountain Road to the center of Monterey and proceeds to New Marlborough Road and Harmon Road to New Marlborough, ending at Immaculate Conception Church (in Mill River). That first part of the journey is about twelve miles. Sunday morning the pilgrimage will continue to Sheffield, ending up at OLOV in time for the 11 am outdoor mass and picnic. That last leg is about eight miles.

If you wish to participate in any part of this call Deacon Dick Magenis at 229-7957. You are welcome to do all or any part of our parish pilgrimage.

— Mary Makuc

Book on Beartown by Historian Bernard Drew



Bear Town Mountain and Burgoyne Pass: History Recovered, Great Barrington writer Bernard A. Drew's latest local history book, was published in April. He will read from the book and talk about his research during Bidwell House's Township No. 1 Day on July 2 at the Bidwell House in Monterey.

The 128-page oversize paperback, available at the Bookloft in Great Barrington and Main Street Books in Lee, collects and annotates Henry M. White's newspaper stories about Beartown published in the *Lee Gleaner* in the early 1900s. Drew brings the Beartown story up to date with an interview with Paul Adams, South Berkshire District Manager, Division of State Parks and Recreation, who discusses Beartown and Swann State Forests.

Drew says of the book, "I had a lot of help in researching the book from hiking companions Art Stringer of Lee, Richard Wilcox and Gary Leveille of Great Barrington, and Conrad Ohman and Robert Hoogs of Monterey. Hikes took us on abandoned colonial roads, past old cellarholes, Civilian Conservation Corps camps and Berkshire Street Railway electric lines."

ॐ

Pastel Workshop June7

Open up the other side of your brain and try some art with Greg Maichack, a splendid teacher of pastel technique and art history. You do not need to be an artist to take this interesting workshop on Tuesday, June 7, from 6–8 pm in the Monterey Meetinghouse (church) basement. In two hours you will learn how Georgia O'Keeffe did it. All materials will be supplied, and you will go home with a new knowledge of art and a pastel painting or two.

This program is brought to you by the Monterey Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. It is free but preregistration is necessary. Please phone John Heffernan 413-644-9235 to register.

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Scott Jenssen

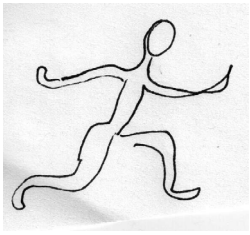
Into the Woods

May 18, 2011

Started out on a walk in the spring rain this morning, down Gould Road, past four staff houses, on the dirt part that leads on through the woods. The rain was getting heavier, and I was glad to be going under trees with their new leaves to shelter a bit from the wet. I was past the staff houses and coming toward the first distant curve in the road when I saw a bear cross the road up ahead.

I have a healthy respect for bears, especially with cubs, and this one saw me just as she got across and disappeared. I stopped and waited to see if more animals might be coming. Then (big mistake) I began walking forward again, imagining the bear to be on its way into the woods. That's when I saw the cubs, two of them, also crossing after the mother—and then the mother was back in the road with them. This was when the scene began to shift, for the big bear didn't disappear again with the cubs; instead she began to walk toward me.

If I were able to run, this is when I would have run. But I can't run, so I turned and walked back toward where I came from as fast as I could walk. And the bear followed, also at a walk. We maintained about the same distance between us, and I kept glancing back to see if she was gaining on me. Sometimes the road would be empty, giving me a moment of false relief, but the next glance would show her still following, just moving in and out of the woods. Several times she made a sound, something between a grunt and a growl, not very loud.



I don't know how long this went on in actual time; I only know how my heart was pounding and how long it felt. The distance was not great; fortunately, I was still very close to the Gould Farm campus. When finally I came up to Steve Snyder's parked car, I tried to open the door to climb in, but the door was locked. Snow Cottage was in sight, so I headed straight for it up through the woods, still afraid that she would chase me. But she did not. The last I saw of her was her alert head and ears watching me in the woods as I gained the house and went into the screened porch.

After the adrenalin died down and I got safely into my own house, I realized that I had just been escorted out of the territory of this bear family. It was a clear lesson, a firm reminder to leave, going in the opposite direction when you see a bear, since you don't know if cubs are following. If this bear had been aggressive, this story would have had a different ending. She could easily have overtaken me. Instead, she walked me home—or nearly—leaving me with the message that when it comes to keeping cubs safe, the basic bear rules about avoiding humans may not apply.

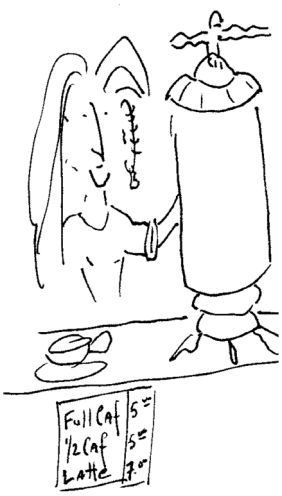
— Ellen Russo

Poetry Writing Workshop June 18, 20

A Poetry Writing Workshop, two linked classes, will be held at the Monterey Library on Saturday, June 18, 6:30–9:00 pm, and Monday, June 20, 5:00–7:00 pm. No experience necessary! Advance sign-up is required; please contact the instructor at Deborah.Bernhardt@gmail.com. The suggested donation is $20.

Deborah Bernhardt has received national and international fellowships and literature grants. Her collection *Echolalia* was published by Four Way Books (New York) as winner of the Intro Prize for Poetry.

This program is supported in part by grants from the Monterey Cultural Council, Alford-Egremont Cultural Council, Great Barrington Cultural Council, and Tyringham Cultural Council, local agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



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Waste Oil Paint and Used Motor Oil Collection

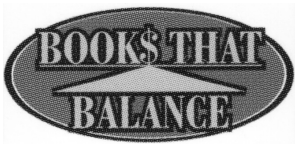
On Wednesday, June 15, the South Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative will hold a paint and oil collections for the sixteen participating towns from 4 to 6:30 pm at the Great Barrington Recycling Center, 601 Stockbridge Road (across from Monument Mountain High School). The Center for EcoTechnology (CET) will coordinate this collection.

The towns in the South Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative sponsor this program. The participating towns are Alford, Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Richmond, Sandisfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham and West Stockbridge.

Acceptable materials are oil-based paint, stains, paint thinners, spray paint, and turpentine, as well as waste motor oil.

Latex paint will not be accepted at this event. Empty cans can be recycled with scrap metal. Dried-up cans of latex paint can be disposed with the regular trash. Empty cans of oil-based paint, stains and solvents can be disposed with the regular trash as well. Usable paint can be given away through freecycle.org or some nonprofits.

To register or for information about what can be brought to this collections, visit www.cetonline.org or email aviem@cetonline.org, or call 888-577-8448 ext. 30.



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Reply to Charles Ferris

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to Charlie Ferris's letter that appeared in the May issue of the *Monterey News*. In his letter Charlie alleges that I said that "the restriction against any other municipal uses of the Wilson McLaughlin property was imposed after the ZBA voted to grant the 2010 permit, without a discussion or vote of the Board at a hearing" and "after the 2010 meeting was concluded he [Lazzarini] wrote the decision and decided on his own to add this restriction." These statements are entirely false and without foundation. Such acts would constitute malfeasance, a willful gross violation of the Open Meeting Law and a betrayal of my fellow Board of Appeals members. Both the minutes and the complete audio recording of the meeting held on 10/7/09 show that the conditions were introduced during the proceedings and fully debated by the Board before they were unanimously accepted and included in the Special Permit. Anyone wishing to verify this can obtain the minutes from the ZBA's website and obtain access to the audio recording of the meeting from the Town's Inter-Departmental Secretary.

My alleged self-incriminating remarks were supposedly made at a subsequent hearing (1/19/11), thus, in the presence of four lawyers. These allegations not only impugn my honesty and integrity, they also cast suspicion on the whole Special Permitting process. I have reviewed the minutes and the entire audio recording of that second hearing as well and have not found anything even remotely suggesting the comments attributed to me in Charlie's letter. Again, anyone interested can independently verify my conclusions by reading the minutes or listening to the audio recording of this hearing.

The important message today for the Town of Monterey is that nothing was done at either of the hearings to corrupt them or to diminish the Board of Appeals' strict adherence to the Open Meeting Laws.

— Bob Lazzarini

ॐ

Thank You, Montery Fire Department

To the Editor:

Four o'clock is usually not the best time for me, and on this morning of the 29th of April making it worse was my son storming into our bedroom announcing that there was smoke in the freshly painted hallway. Without pause, I gathered the family, dogs too, and ordered them out of the house. With no lights in the hallway all I could feel was heat and a lot of it. I called 911 and informed dispatch that I was seeing smoke. Within five minutes of the call Sean Tryon was at my door, and another five minutes saw the entire Monterey Fire Department in full turnout gear, laying out hose and referencing strategy already in place for such an event. All in under ten minutes—incredible . . . but the longest ten minutes of my life. After watching ax-wielding firemen enter my house I feared the worst. Thermal imaging was used prior to the axes and found nothing but steam . . . And Sean's flashlight beam then found our culprits, two open radiator valves whose radiators had been removed for painters' access behind them. I had never shut the valves upon removal, and when the thermostat called for heat—it was in the thirties that night/morning—we got it, just not in the upstairs radiators. It turned the hallway into a sauna instead.

So, disaster averted, and after many deep breaths, life goes on. I'm fighting with my stupidity over not shutting off the valves after causing all this commotion over nothing. I would have expected some frustration as a result of my negligence but got a pat on the back and a thanks for a good practice. I'm writing this letter as an open thank-you to the Monterey Fire Department. For their professionalism, courtesy, timeliness, and good-natured take on the outcome. It could have been a lot worse, and I sleep better at nights now knowing how that "what if" would be handled. Thank you, Sean, and all of the Monterey Fire staff who showed up at four in the morning. I can't tell you how much I appreciate your efforts. And thanks for not stomping our daffodils . . . NOT ONE.

— Josh, Ginny, and James Allentuck,
Rocky and Rosie too!!

Flaggers for Rt. 23 Repairs

To the Editor:

Some of you might be aware (and some of you might not) that Monterey has recently accepted a STRAP grant from the Federal Government. The funds from the grant will be used to repair parts of Route 23 this summer. In keeping with the stipulations of the grant, state prevailing wages must be paid for any patrol work, or directing traffic, around the project (if it is paid for out of the grant money). I would like to address this issue in this letter.

Monterey has an option to hire certified flaggers at a base pay of around $13 per hour versus around $40 per hour for a police officer. We would need to pay that patrol bill from town money, rather than grant funds, but that will mean that more of the STRAP grant money will be able to be used to repair the road. The purpose of the grant is to fix the roads, not to employ police officers who are already taken care of with their salaries.

There are many reasons why I feel that the town should pursue this option to hire certified flaggers. They do a good job (perhaps better than someone who is juggling a full-time position and this outside work), they will save us a lot of money, and it will provide employment opportunities to those who might really need it. In addition, civilian flaggers can be paid by the hour, whereas police officers have 4- and 8-hour shift minimums, meaning that if they are needed for only a brief time, they must be paid for a half or a whole shift regardless, resulting in waste.

In October 2008, Governor Deval Patrick issued an executive order allowing civilian flaggers to work on our state roads, including the Mass Pike, a moneysaving measure already allowed in the other 49 states. Massachusetts saved nearly $12 million in the following year-plus, according to an Associated Press news report dated June 27, 2010. Massachusetts Electric, now National Grid, has worked aggressively in support of training people to become flaggers. In a much more local case, our neighboring town of New Marlborough used flaggers for their STRAP grant work, with very good results.

Not surprisingly, these changes are met with fierce and vocal opposition from police officers and their unions. I served the Town as your Tree Warden for over 30 years and I witnessed firsthand the urgency of the police department to hold onto this detail work. And I would see them sometimes working in other towns, lured away by this lucrative employment. But I think that it's easy for the rest of us to recognize that the economic climate makes it necessary to redirect these funds in order to reduce the burden on us as taxpayers. And as ratepayers, since both our National Grid and Verizon bills are also affected by this issue.

I raised this topic at the informational meeting that was held before our Town Meeting, and there was interest from the people at that meeting to look into this idea of switching to civilian flaggers. I was surprised to learn that many weren't even aware that our police officers don't perform these duties as part of their work, in exchange for their salaries paid for by the Town.

With this letter, I'm inviting you to get in touch with me as I would like to submit a petition to the Select Board requesting a change in the policy, if the townspeople are in favor of it. I can be reached at berkshiremaple@verizon.net, by phone at 528-4091 and/or via my website www.tryonstoneworks.com. I look forward to hearing from you all.

— Roger Tryon

Remembering Bob Heath

Kenneth R. "Bob" Heath Sr., 77, of 470 Main Road, Monterey, died Wednesday, May 11, 2011, at Fairview Hospital. He was born in Great Barrington, on September 24, 1933, son of Harold and Hazel Kasson Heath. He attended local schools and was a 1951 graduate of the former Searles High School.

During the Vietnam era and the time of the Lebanese Peacekeeping Force, Bob proudly served his country with the U. S. Army, 83rd Engineers, from 1956–1963. He was a bulldozer operator and worked for the Mercer Construction Company for 44 years.

Bob was Assistant Fire Chief in Monterey, a Selectman for two terms in Monterey, President of the Monterey Water Department for over 25 years, a 4-H leader for many years, and a volunteer at Gould Farm, Farm Department. He was an avid sports fan of the Patriots, Celtics, Red Sox, and UCONN Basketball.

Bob leaves his wife and high school sweetheart, the former Gail Lanoue, whom he married August 21, 1954; two sons, Kenneth R. Heath Jr. of Sheffield, and Mark Little of Monterey; one sister, Ruth Coutherut of Great Barrington; and one granddaughter, Sherri Heath. Bob was predeceased by his daughter, Kristine Jan Heath, who died March 22, 2011, and two brothers, Harold and Ernest Heath.

In lieu of flowers expressions of sympathy in Bob's memory may be made to Gould Farm in care of Birches-Roy Funeral Home, 33 South Street Great Barrington, MA 01230. Condolences may be made through birchesroyfh.com.

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Remembering John Doelman

John Paul de Baat Doelman III, 81, died at his home on Hatchery Road, New Marlborough, on Saturday, April 30, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Born April 2, 1930, in Grand Rapids, Mich., he was the son of the late John Paul de Baat Doelman Jr. and Alice Young Doelman. He attended Choate School in Wallingford Conn. and in 1956 graduated cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania.

A veteran of the Korean War, John was a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division out of Fort Bragg, N.C., and later the 187 Airborne Regimental Combat Team in Japan and Korea until he was honorably discharged July 4, 1952. John worked for various paper companies in both the U.S. and Canada before retiring in 2006 at the age of 76. He worked for Scott Paper Co, Great Northern Paper Co., and Domtar. He also became a senior V.P. in Newspaper Relations for G. B. Press, and a Director at Maclaran Paper Co., as well as a consultant at Papier Masson Latee Co.

If anyone could combine business and pleasure, John could; he was a master fisherman and salesman, taking business associates, friends, and family to fish great rivers and estuaries, including up to the Artie where he developed a keen interest in the native Inui culture. He also developed an extensive collector of Inuit art, which will now be donated to the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Anthropology & Archeology.

He and his wife, Marcia, moved to New Marlborough in 1993. As President of The Berkshire Hatchery Foundation for the better part of a decade, he was an active and devoted influence in helping it win national recognition, including a prestigious partnership with U. S. Fish & Wildlife from Director Dale Hall in Washington D.C. The latest award was from The Connecticut River Salmon Restoration Society for volunteer achievement. John would walk up the hill to the Hatchery almost daily as long as he was able in the last few months of his illness to feed the fish and lend his support as an example of courage and leadership. Although he will be sorely missed, John leaves a lasting legacy that augurs a bright Hatchery future

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, the former Marcia Ackerman Cole, at home. The couple was married August 14, 1954, at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House in Alexandria, Virginia. He also leaves his sons, John P. Doelman IV of Vero Beach, Fla., and David Cole Doelman and his wife, Paulmi, of Lake Park, Fla.; his daughter, Susan Doelman Eisenberg, and her husband, Dr. Howard Eisenberg, of Pefferlaw, Ontario, Canada; six grandchildren, Alicia, Andrew, Kirsten, John, Christopher, and Murphy; and three great-grandchildren, William, Elizabeth, and Anna Bella.

Donations in memory of John may be made to The Berkshire Fish Hatchery Foundation, or the Inuit Art Foundation, through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA01230. Remembrances, memories, and reflections may be sent to the family through www.finnertyandstevens.com.

— George B. Emmons

Remembering William Perry

William P. Perry, 90, of Ryan Road in Otis died Wednesday, April 27 at Bay State Medical Center in Springfield.

He was born in Westfield on December 18, 1920, the son of Napoleon and Melvina Houghton Perry. He was educated in the Otis and Lee schools and was a 1938 graduate of Lee High School. He served in the U. S. Army during World War II.

After the service he made his home in Monterey, where he worked as a crane operator for Art Hebert Construction in Monterey and later for Fred Mercer and Son Construction in Great Barrington and in Lee, until 1972 when he started his own business, Perry and Son Construction, in Otis. While in Monterey he served as Police Chief and Road Superintendent.

His wife the former Wanda Bristol whom he married Nov. 14, 1942 died March 13, 1997. He leaves his sons Wayne S. Perry and his companion, June McCane of Otis, and Ronald W. Perry and his wife, Barbara, of Otis; his daughters Teresa L. Spence and her husband, Wayne, of Becket, Christine J. Tighe and her husband, Craig, of East Otis; his brother, Clark Dearing of Agawam; his sisters Norma Funk of Winsted, Conn., Florence Fish of Westfield, Emma Malone of East Longmeadow, and Alice Schiedel of Middletown, Conn.; his twelve grandchildren, twenty-four great-grandchildren, and four great great-grandchildren. He also leaves his long time companion, Betty Duchesneau.

In lieu of flowers, friends wishing may make donations to Hospice Care in the Berkshires in care of Kelly Funeral Home, 3 Main St. Lee, MA 01201. If you would like to leave a message of condolence for the family, you may do so in The Book of Memories at www.kellyfuneralhome.net.

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Remembering Anson Olds

Anson Storrs Olds, 55, of Monterey died Tuesday evening, May 24, 2011, due to injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. Born April 13, 1956, in New Haven, Conn., he was the son of Storrs and Shirley Bittiner Olds.

Anson graduated from E. O. Smith High School in Storrs, Conn., received his Bachelor's degree from Evergreen State in Olympia, Washington, and his Master's degree in Creative Arts and Education from Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass. After high school Anson rode his bicycle from Connecticut to California.

Anson dedicated his life to music. Most recently, he was a music teacher at Undermountain Elementary School for grades pre-K through 5, where he used his proficient skill in Spanish and American Sign Language in the classroom. Prior to working at Undermountain he taught in the Pittsfield public schools. He also taught skiing at Catamount.

As a musician, Anson played at the Red Lion Inn and at other venues throughout Berkshire County. He hosted the Northeast Folk Festival Radio Show on WAMC and won many contests in both guitar and fiddle, including the New England Guitar Championship in 1985. He loved animals and the outdoors and was active in skiing and jogging.

Along with his parents, Storrs and Shirley Olds of Monterey, Anson is survived by his wife, the former Emily Hyatt, of Housatonic, Mass. The couple was married June 18, 1988, in Mount Washington, Mass. He also leaves his children, Mariah Grace Rutherford-Olds of Waban, Mass. (28), Kate Elizabeth Olds (20), and Anson Jonathan Olds (17), both of Housatonic, his brother, Storrs Thomas "Tom" Mitchell-Olds (Cheryl) of Durham, N.C., and his sister, Melinda Olds (Robert Kelly) of Housatonic, as well as several nieces and nephews. He was dearly loved by his family.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Anson S. Olds Children's Educational Fund through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA01230. Remembrances, memories and reflections may be sent to the family through www.finnertyandstevens.com

Contributors

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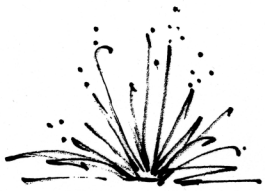

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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall. Start time 5 pm from June 13–August 29, 7 pm other dates.

Every Sunday: Slow-pitch Softball, 10:30 am, Greene Park. Everyone welcome.

Every Tuesday: Zumba Class, 5:30–6:30 pm, Monterey Firehouse. $10/class.

Saturday, June 4: Opening reception for Lois Ryder's Scratchboards exhibition, 7–9 pm, Monterey Library. See p. 19.

Tuesday, June 7: Pastel Workshop with Greg Maichack, 6-8 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse basement. Free, preregistration required; call John Heffernan 413-644-9235. See p. 24.

Thursday, June 9: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Berkshire Visiting Nurse Assoc., Town Hall Meeting Room, 2–3 pm.

Saturday, June 11:

Arbor building Workshop with Ruth Green and Michael Banner, 10 am, Bidwell House Museum. $15, $10 members; see p. 21.

Concert by Common Thread, 8 pm, Sandisfield Arts Center, Hammertown Rd., Sandisfield. $15.

Saturday, June 11–Sunday, June 12: Parish Pilgrimage, Monterey to Mill River to Sheffield. See p. 24.

Wednesday, June 15: Waste oil paint, motor oil collection, 4-6:30 pm, Great Barrington Recycling Center. See p. 26.

Friday, June 17: Birds and Blooms presentation by, 7:15 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse basement. Free. See p. 11.

Saturday, June 18:

Bird walk led by René Laubach of Mass. Audubon, 8:15 am, location TBA. Free, limited to 20 participants, preregistration required; call John Heffernan 413-644-9235. See p. 11.

"America and the Maturing of Democracy," lecture by Val Coleman, 10:30 am, Sandisfield Arts Center. $10.

Saturday, June 18, Monday, June 20: Poetry writing workshop led by Deborah Bernhardt, Monterey Library. Saturday, 6:30–9 pm; Monday, 5–7 pm. $20. See p. 25.

Saturday, June 25:

Bidwell House Museum History Talk: "Splitsville: Tyringham and Monterey in 1847" by Clinton Elliott, Tyringham Church, 10 a.m. $15, members $10. See p. 21.

"Strings Attached," concert by Maggie Holtxberg and friends, fiddling traditions of Ireland, Scotland, and the American South, 8 pm, Sandisfield Arts Center. $15, under 14 $10.

Monday, June 27: Adult reading group will discuss *My Own Country* by Abraham Verghese, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library.

Saturday, July 2:

Township No. 1 Day, 1–4:30 pm, Bidwell House Museum. See p. 21.

Ed the Wizard, children's show, 10:30 am, Monterey Library.

Friday, July 8: "Monterey in the Civil War," Lecture by Barbara Swann, 7:15 pm, Monterey Meetinghouse. Free. See p. 14.

Saturday, July 30:

Annual Library Benefit Book Sale, 9 am–1 pm, Library lawn and Knox Room.

34th annual Firemen's Steak Roast, 6 pm, Firehouse Pavilion. Tickets $25 from any fireman.

Note: There is no Mountain Laurel contra dance in June, July, or August. Dances will resume in September at Dewey Hall in Sheffield.

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The Observer
April 26–May 25

High temp. (4/26)	81°
Low temp. (5/5)	30°
Avg. high temp.	62.6°
Avg. low temp.	42.4°
Avg. temp.	52.5°
Total rainfall	4.52"

Rainfall occurred on 21 days.

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Mailing Labels ..... Joe Baker
Treasurer ..... Mari Enoch

Contributions from local and guest artists this month: Pat Arnow, pp. 15, 25; David Bacharach, p. 25; Maureen Banner, p. 27, George Emmons, p. 20; Bonner McAllester, p. 18.

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